

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel without prejudice claims 6, 19, 23, 24, 26 and 27, amend claims 2, 4, 7, 11, 14, 20, 25, 28 and 29 and add newly written claims 31 and 32 as follows.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (cancelled).

2. (currently amended) A deformable-mirror apparatus as in claim ~~27~~25, wherein the ends of the flexible beams are co-joined to form a unitary structure shaped to provide said supporting surface.

3. (previously presented) A deformable-mirror apparatus as in claim 25, wherein the ends of the flexible structure lie in the plane of the body of the holder such that the mirror is received within the body.

4. (currently amended) A deformable-mirror apparatus as in claim ~~27~~25, wherein at least one beam is generally L-shaped such that one leg of the L-shape provides the flexible portion and the other leg of the L-shape provides the supporting surface of the end of the beam.

5. (previously presented) A deformable-mirror apparatus as in claim 4, wherein the internal corner of the L-shaped beam has a shoulder that extends part of the way along both legs of the L-shape.

6. (cancelled).

7. (currently amended) A deformable-mirror apparatus as in claim 625, wherein the width of the beams is larger than the separation between beams.

8. (previously presented) A deformable-mirror apparatus as in claim 7, wherein the width of the beams is greater than four times the separation between beams.

9. (cancelled).

10. (previously presented) A deformable mirror apparatus as in claim 4, wherein the peripheral edge of the mirror is supported from below by one leg of the L-shaped beam and is supported from the side by the other leg of the L-shaped beam.

11. (currently amended) A deformable mirror apparatus as in claim 532, wherein the peripheral edge of the mirror is supported from below by one leg of the L-shaped beam and is supported from the side by an inwardly-facing side of the shoulder.

12. (cancelled).

13. (cancelled).

14. (currently amended) A deformable-mirror holder comprising:

a deformable-mirror holder comprising a rigid body with a central aperture for receiving a deformable mirror, the mirror having a deformation device for deforming the mirror attached thereto, and

a plurality of flexible beams around the entire periphery of said central aperture for supporting said mirror at an edge thereof, each flexible beam comprising a support for said mirror, said support permitting movement of said mirror edge when said mirror is deformed by said deformation device, said support including an end shaped to provide a supporting surface for supporting said deformable mirror and a flexible portion that links said end of the beam to said body of the holder.

15. (previously presented) A deformable-mirror holder as in claim 14, wherein the ends of the flexible beams are co-joined to form a unitary structure shaped to provide said supporting surface.

16. (previously presented) A deformable-mirror holder as in claim 14, wherein the ends of the beams lie in the plane of the body of the holder such that, in use, the mirror is received within the body of the holder.

17. (previously presented) A deformable-mirror holder as in claim 14, wherein at least one beam is generally L-shaped such that one leg of the L-shape provides the flexible portion and the other leg of the L-shape provides the supporting surface of the end of the beam.

18. (previously presented) A deformable-mirror holder as in claim 17, wherein the internal corner of the L-shaped beam has a shoulder that extends part of the way along both legs of the L-shape.

19. (cancelled).

20. (currently amended) A deformable-mirror holder as in claim ~~19~~14, wherein the width of the beams is larger than the separation between beams.

21. (previously presented) A deformable-mirror holder as in claim 20, wherein the width of the beams is greater than four times the separation between beams.

22. (cancelled).

23. (cancelled).

24. (cancelled).

25. (currently amended) Deformable mirror apparatus comprising:

a deformable mirror,

a mounting body having an aperture in which the deformable mirror is received, and
flexible structure extending across the aperture to the mirror, and

a deformation device for controllably deforming the mirror, the deformation device acting on the mirror other than through the flexible structure comprising a plurality of flexible beams arranged around the entire periphery of the aperture, the flexible structure having an end shaped to provide a supporting surface supporting the mirror, and a flexible portion linking the supporting surface to the body and permitting movement of an edge of the mirror relative to the body when the mirror is deformed by the deformation device.

26. (cancelled).

27. (cancelled).

28. (currently amended) A deformable mirror apparatus as in claim 25 wherein the flexible portions ~~permits~~permit rotation of the edge of the mirror.

29. (currently amended) A deformable mirror apparatus as in claim 25 wherein the flexible portions ~~permits~~permit displacement of the edge of the mirror axially of the mirror.

30. (previously presented) A deformable mirror holder as in claim 14, wherein the mounting body is a unitary structure.

31. (new) A deformable mirror apparatus comprising:
a deformable mirror,

a mounting body having an aperture in which the deformable mirror is received, and
flexible structure extending across the aperture to the mirror, and

a deformation device for controllably deforming the mirror, the deformation device
acting on the mirror other than through the flexible structure, the flexible structure comprising a
plurality of flexible beams, each beam having an end shaped to provide a supporting surface
supporting the mirror, and a flexible portion linking the supporting surface to the body and
permitting movement of an edge of the mirror relative to the body when the mirror is deformed
by the deformation device, each beam being generally L-shaped such that one leg of the L-shape
provides the flexible portion and the other leg of the L-shape provides the supporting surface of
the end of the beam the peripheral edge of the mirror being supported from below by one leg of
the L-shaped beam and being supported from the side by the other leg of the L-shaped beam.

32. (new) A deformable mirror apparatus comprising:

a deformable mirror,

a mounting body having an aperture in which the deformable mirror is received, and
flexible structure extending across the aperture to the mirror, and

a deformation device for controllably deforming the mirror, the deformation device
acting on the mirror other than through the flexible structure, the flexible structure comprising a
plurality of flexible beams, each beam having an end shaped to provide a supporting surface
supporting the mirror, and a flexible portion linking the supporting surface to the body and
permitting movement of an edge of the mirror relative to the body when the mirror is deformed
by the deformation device, each beam being generally L-shaped such that one leg of the L-shape
provides the flexible portion and the other leg of the L-shape provides the supporting surface of

the end of the beam, and wherein the internal corner of the L-shaped beam has a shoulder that extends part of the way along both legs of the L-shape.